

REMARKS

Claims 89-91, 94-96, 98-102 and 104-120 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 89, 91, 94, 96, 98-102, 104 and 105 are amended, and claims 106-120 are added. Independent claims 89, 94, 95 and 102 are amended based on indicated-as-allowable claims 93, 94, 95 and 103, respectively. Support for the features recited in claims 91 and 107 may be found on page 68, lines 3-9. Support for the features recited in claims 98 and 108 may be found on page 67, lines 1-10, for example. Support for the features recited in claims 106, 111, 114 and 118 may be found on page 107, lines 12-25, for example. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants note that added claim 109 is based on previously presented claim 100, added claims 110, 113, and 117 are based on previously presented claim 101, added claims 112, 116 and 120 are based on previously presented claim 90, and added claims 115 and 119 are based on previously presented claims 99. Claims 92, 93, 97 and 103 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claim 93. The cancellation of claim 93 obviates the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 93 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 89-92, 97-98, 100 and 102 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,282,044 to Misawa; rejects claims 96 and 99 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Misawa in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0168581 to Shinohara; and rejects claim 101 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Misawa in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0010705 to Min. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 93-95 and 103-105 recite allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, independent claims 89, 94, 95 and 102 are

amended based on indicated-as-allowable claims 93, 94, 95 and 103, respectively, placing these claims in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, the combinations of applied references would not have suggested the combinations of all of the features recited in independent claims 89, 94, 95 and 102. Thus, the combinations of applied references would not have suggested the combinations of features recited in dependent claims 90, 91, 96, 98-101 and 104-120 for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of §102 and §103 rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

Kipman T. Werking
Registration No. 60,187

MAC:KTW/acd

Attachments:

Amendment Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: April 16, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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